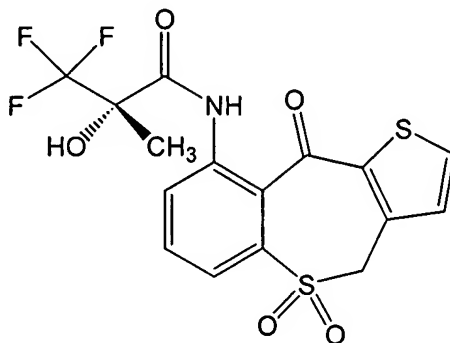


a.) Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Original) A microcrystal of (S)-(+)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-N-(5,5,10-trioxo-4,10-dihydrothieno[3,2-c][1]benzothiepin-9-yl)propaneamide represented by the following formula



which has an average particle size of 80 μm or less.

2. (Original) The microcrystal according to Claim 1, wherein the average particle size of the microcrystal of (S)-(+)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-N-(5,5,10-trioxo-4,10-dihydrothieno[3,2-c][1]benzothiepin-9-yl)propaneamide is from 1 to 40 μm .

3. (Currently Amended) The microcrystal of (S)-(+)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-N-(5,5,10-trioxo-4,10-dihydrothieno[3,2-c][1] benzothiepin-9-yl)propaneamide according to ~~Claims 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, wherein a crystallinity thereof is 15% or more.

4. (Currently Amended) The microcrystal of (S)-(+)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-N-(5,5,10-trioxo-4,10-dihydrothieno[3,2-c][1] benzothiepin-9-yl)propaneamide according to ~~Claims 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, wherein the crystallinity thereof is 25% or more.

5. (Currently Amended) The microcrystal of (S)-(+)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-N-(5,5,10-trioxo-4,10-dihydrothieno[3,2-c][1]benzothiepin-9-yl)propaneamide according to ~~Claims 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, wherein the crystallinity thereof is 45% or more.

6. (Currently Amended) The microcrystal of (S)-(+)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-N-(5,5,10-trioxo-4,10-dihydrothieno[3,2-c][1]benzothiepin-9-yl)propaneamide according to ~~Claims 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, wherein the crystallinity thereof is 75% or more.

7. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising the microcrystals described in any one of ~~Claims 1 to 6~~ Claims 1 to 6 or 10 to 13, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. (Currently Amended) A process for producing the microcrystals described in any one of ~~Claims 1 to 6~~ Claims 1 to 6 or 10 to 13, comprising a step of dry-pulverizing (S)-(+)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-N-(5,5,10-trioxo-4,10-dihydrothieno[3,2-c][1]benzothiepin-9-yl)propanamide which has an average particle size of 80 μm or more.

9. (Original) The process for producing the microcrystals according to the Claim 8, wherein a jet mill is used in the pulverization step.

10. (New) The microcrystal of (S)-(+)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-N-(5,5,10-trioxo-4,10-dihydrothieno[3,2-c][1] benzothiepin-9-yl)propanamide according to Claim 2, wherein a crystallinity thereof is 15% or more.

11. (New) The microcrystal of (S)-(+)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-N-(5,5,10-trioxo-4,10-dihydrothieno[3,2-c][1] benzothiepin-9-yl)propanamide according to Claim 2, wherein the crystallinity thereof is 25% or more.

12. (New) The microcrystal of (S)-(+)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-N-(5,5,10-trioxo-4,10-dihydrothieno[3,2-c][1]benzothiepin-9-yl)propanamide according to Claim 2, wherein the crystallinity thereof is 45% or more.

13. (New) The microcrystal of (S)-(+)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-N-(5,5,10-trioxo-4,10-dihydrothieno[3,2-c][1]benzothiepin-9-yl)propaneamide according to Claim 2, wherein the crystallinity thereof is 75% or more.